

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image transmission system for transmitting an image via a network, said image transmission system comprising:

- one or a plurality of image pickup apparatus each having a unique identifying number and having an encrypting function for encrypting a picked-up image for transmission to said network;
- a key generating apparatus for generating, for each said image pickup apparatus, an encryption key for encrypting said image and a decryption key for decrypting said encrypted image;
- a removable recording medium for recording said decryption key and the identifying number of said image pickup apparatus in association with each other;
- a viewing apparatus connected ~~[[with]]~~to said removable recording medium, ~~[[and]]~~ having a decrypting function for decrypting said encrypted image using said decryption key, for communicating with said image pickup device, and for viewing the image transmitted via said network ~~[[by]]~~from said image pickup apparatus to said viewing apparatus; and
- an authenticating server for authenticating said image pickup apparatus accessible from said viewing apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) An image transmission system for transmitting an image via a network, said image transmission system comprising:

- one or a plurality of image pickup apparatus each having a unique identifying number;
- a key generating apparatus for encrypting an image picked up by said image pickup apparatus and transmitting the image to said network, and generating a decryption key for decrypting said encrypted image;
- a removable recording medium for recording said decryption key and the identifying number of said image pickup apparatus in association with each other;
- a viewing apparatus connected ~~[[with]]~~to said removable recording medium, ~~[[and]]~~having a decrypting function for decrypting said encrypted image using said decryption key, for

communication with said image pickup device, and for viewing the image transmitted via said network ~~[[by]]~~from said image pickup apparatus to said viewing apparatus; and an authenticating server for authenticating said image pickup apparatus accessible from said viewing apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) An image transmission system for transmitting an image via a network, said image transmission system comprising:

one or a plurality of image pickup apparatus each having a unique identifying number;
a transmitting apparatus for encrypting an image picked up by said image pickup apparatus and transmitting the image to said network;
a key generating apparatus for generating, for each said image pickup apparatus, an encryption key for encrypting said image and a decryption key for decrypting said encrypted image;
a removable recording medium for recording said decryption key and the identifying number of said image pickup apparatus in association with each other;
a viewing apparatus connected ~~[[with]]~~to said removable recording medium, ~~[[and]]~~ having a decrypting function for decrypting said encrypted image using said decryption key, for communicating with said image pickup device, and for viewing the image transmitted via said network ~~[[by]]~~from said image pickup apparatus to said viewing apparatus; and an authenticating server for authenticating said image pickup apparatus accessible from said viewing apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) An image transmission system for transmitting an image via a network, said image transmission system comprising:

one or a plurality of image pickup apparatus each having a unique identifying number and having an encrypting function for encrypting a picked-up image for transmission to said network;

a key generating apparatus for generating, for each said image pickup apparatus, an encryption key for said image pickup apparatus to encrypt the image and a decryption key;
a removable recording medium for recording said decryption key and the identifying number of said image pickup apparatus in association with each other; and
a viewing apparatus connected ~~[[with]]~~to said removable recording medium, ~~[[and]]~~ having a decrypting function for decrypting said encrypted image using said decryption key, for communicating with said image pickup device, and for viewing the image transmitted via said network ~~[[by]]~~from said image pickup apparatus to said viewing apparatus.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus unit comprising:

an image pickup apparatus having a unique identifying number and having an encrypting function for encrypting a picked-up image for transmission to a network; and
a removable recording medium for recording a decryption key for decrypting the image encrypted by said image pickup apparatus and the identifying number of said image pickup apparatus in association with each other.

wherein said image pickup apparatus receives an encryption key for encrypting said image from a key generating apparatus;

wherein said removable recording medium receives the decryption key for decrypting said image from a key generating apparatus.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein said image pickup apparatus is at least one of a USB camera and an IP camera.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A key generating apparatus for generating an encryption key used for encryption processing in transmitting an image via a network, and a decryption key, wherein said key generating apparatus generates the encryption key for encrypting said image and transmits the encryption key to an image pickup apparatus having a unique identifying number and having an encrypting function for encrypting a picked-up image for transmission ~~[[to-]]~~over the network to a viewing apparatus; and said key generating apparatus generates the decryption key for decrypting said encrypted image by the viewing apparatus and transmits the decryption key to a removable recording medium for recording said decryption key and the identifying number of said image pickup-apparatus in association with each other.

15. (Original) A key generating apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said key generating apparatus has a linking function for linking said image pickup apparatus to said network.

16. (Original) A key generating apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said key generating apparatus has a compressing function for compressing the image picked up by said image pickup apparatus.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, for making a computer function as the key generating apparatus of claim 14.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, for making a computer perform comprising the steps of:

initializing a image transmission system, comprising

- connecting an image pickup apparatus and a memory card to a key generating apparatus;
- transmitting an identifying number from the image pickup apparatus to the key generating apparatus;
- registering the identifying number from the image pickup apparatus at the key generating apparatus and at an authentication server;
- generating an encryption and decryption key unique to the image pickup apparatus;
- then

requesting that the authentication server authenticate a user and authenticate that a user can access the image pickup device;

authenticating the user and image pickup apparatus in response to the requesting step;

connecting the image pickup apparatus to a viewing apparatus;

comparing the identification number in the memory card to the identifying number of the image pickup apparatus;

obtaining the decryption key from the memory card;

transmitting an image request from the viewing apparatus to the image pickup apparatus;

receiving an image from the imaging pickup apparatus at the viewing apparatus;

decrypting images received from the image pickup device using the decryption key;

displaying the decrypted images on the viewer.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising:

- accessing the authentication server from a viewing apparatus using a username and password.

20. (Previously Presented) An image transmission system for transmitting an image via a network, comprising:

- an image pickup apparatus connected to a key generating apparatus, comprising:

a recording unit for storing an identifying number and an encryption key from the key generating apparatus;

the key generating apparatus, comprising:

a network interface for registering the identifying number from the image pickup apparatus at an authentication server;

a recording unit for storing the the identifying number from the image pickup apparatus;

an encryption key generation unit for generating an encryption and decryption key unique to the image pickup apparatus;

an interface for storing the decryption key in a removable storage medium;

an image viewer comprising:

an interface for requesting that the authentication server authenticate a user and authenticate an image pickup device accessible by the user, and connecting the image pickup apparatus to the viewing apparatus;

a memory interface for obtaining the decryption key from the removable storage medium;

a decrypting unit for decrypting the images received from the image pickup device using the decryption key;

a display unit for displaying the decrypted images on the viewer; and

an authentication server for authenticating the user and image pickup apparatus in response to an authentication request.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the authentication server authenticates the user of the viewing apparatus using a username and password associated with the image pickup apparatus.

22. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus used in an image transmission system for transmitting an image via a network, said image pickup apparatus comprising:

a recording unit for recording a unique identifying number;

an encrypting unit for encrypting a picked-up image; and

a communicating unit for transmitting said encrypted image to a viewer that has been authenticated by an authentication server and is permitted to receive encrypted images from the image pickup apparatus.

23. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said communicating unit includes a receiving unit for receiving an encryption key for encrypting said image from a key generating apparatus.

24. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said communicating unit includes at least one of a USB port and a recording unit records an IP address.